

lanceolate form, and are somewhat pointed. The axis of the gland is in the form of an elongated cone; it is composed of elongated and dense cellular tissue. Dr. Balfour, with the aid of his pupil, Mr. Matthews, examined these glands in many Cinchonaceæ, and they detected them in fresh specimens of the following:—*Cinchona Calisaya*, *Burchellia capensis*, *Cephaëlis Ipecacuanha*, *Coffea arabica*, *Ixora javanica*, *Mussaenda frondosa*, *Rondeletia speciosa*, *Pavetta indica*, *Luculia gratissima* and *Pinceana*, *Pentas carnea*, *Gardenia Stanleyana*, and other species. In some the secretion was beautifully coloured.

Dr. Balfour stated that he had recently received a letter from Dr. Walker-Arnott, in which he remarks, that in preparing spiral vessels to show them fresh, he finds the most easy plan is to take the petiole or peduncle of *Pinguicula vulgaris* and squeeze it between two glass slides, so that it may become thin and transparent. In this way a preparation is made, which, when put under the microscope, exhibits spiral vessels and annular ducts distinctly without any further trouble.

Dr. Balfour exhibited specimens of *Knappia agrostidea*, recently collected by Mr. Syme at Gullane Links, but which he had subsequently ascertained to have been sown there by several botanists at different times; as also *Ranunculus confusus*, Gr. et G., from a pond at the same place; and *R. trichophyllus*, from the pools at Gullane: the latter is considered by Mr. Babington and others as a variety of *R. aquatilis*. Dr. Balfour also exhibited from Mr. Syme dried specimens of *Narcissus poeticus*, retaining the beautiful colour of the flower; the specimens had been received in a fresh state from the Rev. Mr. Bree, Allesley Rectory.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORTHAGORISCUS MOLA.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Edinburgh, 7 West Maitland Street,
September 20, 1851.

GENTLEMEN,—Having had the opportunity this morning of examining a recent specimen of the *Short Sun-Fish*, *Orthagoriscus mola*, it occurred to me it might be of sufficient interest to justify my troubling you with a note of its capture. It was taken by some fishermen while swimming or rather floating near the surface of the sea, off the coast of Haddingtonshire, near Dunglass, on the 18th of this month. Its length was about 21 inches from the point of the nose to the extremity of the tail; and its breadth in front of the dorsal fin across to anus, immediately in front of anal fin, was 13 inches 6 lines; the length of the dorsal fin was 9 inches, and the anal 8 inches 6 lines, both being very moveable at their junction with the body; the length of the caudal fin, which unites these two other fins together, was 2 inches at its centre, the long “hinge-like” part connecting it to the body being 1 inch 9 lines in breadth at the same place; the rays of

the different fins (pectoral, dorsal and anal) correspond to the numbers given in Yarrell's well-known 'History of British Fishes,' except that those of the thick caudal fin were so indistinct that I could not detect them by external examination. The fish was of a dingy bluish or dark leaden colour on the upper parts, mottled with a lighter colour on the sides, and of a light gray approaching to a silvery white on the abdomen, the "hinge-like" portion of the fins, especially of the caudal, having a reddish or dark flesh-coloured tinge; round the eye the colour was paler, and the eye itself was of a dark bluish-gray colour, with a bright "silvery ring round the pupil." The flesh felt soft and flabby, the fish being apparently in bad condition, and weighing only 11 lbs. avoird. The skin was slightly wrinkled, and was rough all over like a shark's.

I remain, Gentlemen, yours very respectfully,

JOHN ALEX. SMITH, M.D.

P.S. I may mention that the skin of a specimen of this fish, much about the same size as the one I have described, was exhibited to the Royal Physical Society here last winter, having been captured by one of the members while dredging in Loch Ryan.

CARCHARIAS VULPES.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Cork, September 20, 1851.

GENTLEMEN,—An example of the Fox Shark (*Carcharias Vulpes*) occurred in Ringabella Bay, close to the mouth of Cork Harbour, on the 31st of last month. It got entangled in a net and was secured by the fishermen. It was considerably smaller than the individual lately recorded in your Magazine by Mr. Thomson; the whole length of the animal being 7 feet 4 inches, and that of the upper segment of tail 3 feet 9 inches nearly. Owing to the ignorance of the person to whom the skinning was entrusted, the specimen has unfortunately not been saved. The fish was a male.

Yours respectfully,

J. (R.) HARVEY, M.D.

On the Arrangement of Fossil Animal Remains in Collections.

By J. E. GRAY, Esq., F.R.S., V.P.Z.S. &c.

There appears to be considerable difference of opinion among geologists and fossil collectors respecting the manner in which fossil specimens of animals should be arranged. I have therefore been induced to put together the following notes:—

1. Some agree with Cuvier, Lamarck, Fleming, and other zoologists, that they should be arranged with and in the same series as similar specimens of the recent animals.

2. Others, that they should be first divided according to the strata in which they are found, and the specimens of each stratum arranged in a zoological method.

3. Others, that they should be simply arranged zoologically in a collection by themselves.

I have long been of opinion that no collection of zoology can be con-